Mining amethyst

How its mined

* Mined from a drift mine most of the time (shaft is dug down to gemstone rock, then dug out by hand!!!)
* Taken to washing plant close to the mine
* “a diesel-powered conveyer system to wash and sort the ore before it is taken to knocking and grading

Found

* Minas geris in brazil (in large geodes within volcanic rocks
* South Korea
* (Biggest vein in world) maissau, lower Australia
* South India
* Southern Africa (biggest producers in world with 1000 tonnes a year)
* United states (lots of places)

Fun fact

* The Greek word “amethystos” is translated at “not drunken”. Amethyst was considered to be a strong antidote against drunkenness, which is why wine goblets were often carved from it.

How its formed

* The caves are filled with water and dissolved minerals permeated through the rock (permeated means spread throughout). With time these minerals will crystallize in the caves, and line the cave with a silica layer (amethyst)The geodes continue developing as long as moisture is present